Export of cereals

3308. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to export more than two lakh tonnes of cereals during 1991-92; and

(b) if so, the details of surplus cereals produced in the country and the cereals likely to be exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated production of cereals for the year 1990-91 is 162.17 million metric tonnes. Only marginal surplus is available for export.

During 1991-92, eight lakh tonnes of wheat and seven lakh tonnes of non-basmati rice are likely to be exported. Besides, a ceiling of one lakh tonnes of wheat products has been released for export during the year.

Increase in minimum support price of wheat

3309. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission has recommended an increase of Rs. 20/- per quintal in the minimum support price of wheat for the 1991-92 season;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted this recommendation; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices on Price Policy for the Rabi Crops of 1991-92 to be marketed in 1992-93 is at present under consideration of the Government.

Starvation deaths in the country

3310. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated the 9th October, 1991 under the captioned "11000 Indian die of hunger every day";

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps Government have contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is not based on facts. There are no reports from the State Governments regarding Starvation deaths.

(c) Does not arise.

Uniform pricing policy on fertilizers

3311. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have released foreign exchange worth Rs. 4,500 crores for the import of fertilizers to meet the shortage there of during the Rabi and Kharif seasons next year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the dual pricing policy on fertilizers is causing great concern for the farmers; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring a uniform pricing policy on fertilizers, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) The Government have released Rs. 4545 crore foreign exchange budget for 1991-92 for the import of fertilisers, fertiliser raw materials and intermediates. Foreign exchange budget for the next year has not been allocated.

(b) Some State Governments have informed that farmers have expressed concern about the dual pricing of fertilisers resulting from the subsidy on fertilisers to small and marginal farmers.

(c) At present while the notified price of fertilisers is the same for all farmers, a subsidy is given to small & marginal farmers to cover the price difference between the prices notified on 14th August, 1991 and those prior to 25th July, 1991. At present there is no specific proposal under consideration to discontinue this subsidy scheme.

Drought in Gujarat

3312. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many people from Saurashtra and Kutch in Gujarat are compelled to migrate with their cattle to South Gujarat on account of severe drought prevailing in these regions; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. So far 36475 cattle and their owners have migrated to South Gujarat due to scarcity of fodder in Kutch District during the current year.

(b) The State Government of Gujarat has opened transit camps for the migration of cattle at a distance of every 20 kms as prescribed in the Gujarat Relief Manual. In the Camps, 3 kg. of fodder and 1 kg. of concentrates per cattle is being given free of cost. Besides, relief measures have been taken to give all facilities as per State Relief Manual.

Sub-standard milk in Delhi

3313. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sub-standard and superious milk is being supplied in Delhi by private companies in pouches which almost look like the genuine ones supplied by the Delhi Milk Scheme; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some complaints have been received in this regard.

(b) Amongst others, Director, Prevention of Food Adultration, Delhi Administration, Delhi, Director, Consumer Affairs, Delhi Administration, Delhi and Commissioner, Food and Civil Supplies Delhi have been requested to take suitable action against the concerned parties.

Starvation deaths in the country

3314. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of starvation deaths taken place in the country during the last two years year-wise and State-wise;

(b) what are the reasons for such starvation deaths when the country is self-sufficient in food production; and

(c) what steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No report of starvation death has been received from any State Government/Union Territory Administration during the last two years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Facilities to farmers

3315. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: